

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for removing body fluids from a body cavity (T) by suction, comprising:

a catheter ~~means~~ having a drainage lumen (3) and an auxiliary lumen (5) adapted for placement adjacent a wound in the body cavity (T) to be drained of body fluid, the drainage lumen (3) having a proximal end being in fluid communication with a proximal end of the auxiliary lumen (5);

a ~~suction drainage collection means~~ container (2) for connection in fluid communication with the drainage lumen (3) and for receiving body drainage fluid from the body cavity (T);

a source of suction (1) for effecting negative pressure in the drainage lumen (3);  
and

~~means~~ a valve (7) for opening the auxiliary lumen (5) in order to supply air or gas to the body cavity (T); and

~~characterized in that~~

~~means~~ a controller (9) ~~are~~ provided to increase the pressure difference between a pressure in the drainage lumen (3) and a pressure in the atmosphere when the auxiliary lumen (5) is open.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the source of suction is a suction pump (J) and the ~~means for increasing the pressure difference is a controller (9) of the suction pump (I) which can increase~~ controls the suction power of the suction pump (J).

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~one of~~ claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, further comprising a first pressure sensor (6) measuring the pressure in the auxiliary lumen (5) and being in communication with the controller means (9) ~~for increasing the pressure difference~~.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~one of claim 1 to 3~~ wherein the ~~means (9)~~ ~~for increasing the pressure difference~~ controller is in communication with the ~~means~~ valve (7) for opening the auxiliary lumen (5).

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~one of claim 1 to 3~~ wherein the pressure difference can be increased to achieve a negative pressure level in the drainage lumen (3) being at least half of the negative pressure level during drainage.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~one of claims 1~~ further comprising a means (8) for measuring the pressure in at least one of the group of the ~~suction drainage collection~~ ~~means~~ container (2) and the drainage lumen (3).

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein this means is a second pressure sensor (8).

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of one of claim 7, wherein the ~~means (9)~~ ~~for increasing the pressure difference~~ ~~are~~ controller is in communication with the second pressure sensor (8).

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ wherein the ~~means (9)~~ ~~for increasing the pressure difference~~ controller is increasing the pressure continuously.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein the ~~means (9)~~ ~~for increasing the pressure difference~~ controller is increasing the pressure abruptly.

11. (currently amended) A method for operating an apparatus for removing body fluids from a body cavity (T) by suction, the apparatus comprising:

a catheter ~~means~~ having a drainage lumen (3) and an auxiliary lumen (5) adapted for placement adjacent a wound in the body cavity (T) to be drained of body fluid, the drainage lumen (3) having a proximal end being in fluid communication with a proximal end of the auxiliary lumen (5);

a ~~suction-drainage-collection-means~~ container (2) for connection in fluid communication with the drainage lumen (3) and for receiving body drainage fluid from the body cavity (T);

a source of suction (4) for effecting negative pressure in the drainage lumen (3) and ~~means~~ a valve (7) for opening the auxiliary lumen (5) in order to supply air or gas to the body cavity; (T)

the method comprising the steps of  
opening the auxiliary lumen; (5) and

increasing the pressure difference between a pressure in the drainage lumen (3) and a pressure in the atmosphere.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the pressure difference is increased by increasing the power of the source of suction (4).

13. (currently amended) The method of ~~one of claims~~ claim 11 ~~or 12~~ wherein the pressure in the auxiliary lumen (5) is measured and the pressure difference is increased only when the pressure corresponds at least to atmospheric pressure.

14. (currently amended) The method of ~~one of claims~~ claim 11 ~~to 13~~ wherein the auxiliary lumen (5) is opened by opening a first valve (7).

15. (currently amended) The method of ~~claims~~ claim 11 ~~12, 13 and 14~~ wherein the source of suction (4) is control by a controller (9) and wherein ~~this~~ the controller (9) is in communication with at least one of the group of the valve (7) and a first pressure sensor (6) measuring the pressure in the auxiliary lumen (5).

16. (currently amended) A method for removing body fluids from a body cavity (T) by suction, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a catheter ~~means~~ having a drainage lumen (3) and an auxiliary lumen (5) adapted for placement adjacent a wound in the body cavity (T) to be drained of body fluid, the drainage lumen (3) having a proximal end being in fluid communication with a proximal end of the auxiliary lumen (5);

providing a ~~suction-drainage-collection-means~~ container (2) for connection in fluid communication with the drainage lumen (3) and for receiving body drainage fluid from the body cavity (T);

providing a source of suction (4) for effecting negative pressure in the drainage lumen (3) and

providing a ~~means~~ a valve (7) for opening the auxiliary lumen (5) in order to supply air or gas to the body cavity (T)

the method further comprising the steps of

opening the auxiliary lumen; (5) and

increasing the pressure difference between a pressure in the drainage lumen (3) and a pressure in the atmosphere.